

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 INT-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 L-03
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TO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:EMIN, UNCTAD

SUBJECT:UNCTAD/IPC: IRON ORE

1. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE POST MAKING INQUIRIES,
AS APPROPRIATE, OF UNCTAD SECRETARIAT, KEY MISSIONS, AND
THE ASSOCIATION OF IRON ORE EXPORTERS (APEF) RE THEIR
EXPECTATIONS FOR THE APRIL 24-28 IRON ORE EXPERTS MEETING.
SPECIFICALLY:

A) DOES THE SECRETARIAT INTEND TO PUBLISH FURTHER RESEARCH
ON THE IRON ORE MARKET FOR THIS MEETING? IF SO, WHAT IS ITS
NATURE AND WHEN WILL IT BE AVAILABLE? HOW WILL THE AGENDA
FOR THE MEETING BE STRUCTURED?

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B) DOES APEF PLAN TO HOLD A PRODUCERS' MEETING BEFORE THE
EXPERTS MEETING IS CONVENED? HAVE THERE BEEN CHANGES IN
MEMBERSHIP OR OTHER DEVELOPMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE?

C) WILL BRAZIL CONTINUE TO REMAIN ALOOF FROM THE PRODUCERS'
CAUCUS?

D) WHAT SCENARIOS DO KEY PARTICIPANTS ENVISION FOR THE IRON ORE DIALOGUE THROUGH 1978 AND LEADING UP TO UNCTAD (V)?

E) WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF INTEREST IN A PRODUCER/CONSUMER FORUM FOR IRON ORE?

2. POST VIEWS CONCERNING THE PROBABLE COURSE OF THE IRON ORE DIALOGUE AND APPROPRIATE U.S. OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY ARE WELCOME. OUR PRELIMINARY THINKING IS THAT WE SHOULD PRESS FOR A THOROUGH ANALYSIS OF THE MARKET AND IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEMS BEFORE FORMALLY CONSIDERING THE APPROPRIATENESS OF ANY MEASURES CONTAINED IN RESOLUTION 93(IV), INCLUDING THE ORGANIZATION OF A PRODUCER/CONSUMER FORUM (PCF). FOLLOWING THIS STRATEGY, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT FURTHER RESEARCH (EITHER BY THE SECRETARIAT, BY A PRIVATE CONTRACTOR, OR BY ASSIGNING TOPICS FOR REPORTS TO GOVERNMENTS) IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EXPERTS GROUP IN AREAS WHERE THERE IS DISAGREEMENT OR INADEQUATE DATA CONCERNING PERCEIVED PROBLEMS. WE WOULD THUS ARGUE THAT A JUDGEMENT ON THE EFFICACY AND POSSIBLE ROLE OF A PCF WOULD HAVE TO EMERGE FROM THE SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF THE EXPERTS GROUP. THIS WOULD NOT PRECLUDE OUR COOPERATING IN A PRELIMINARY STUDY ON A PCF IF THERE WERE A STRONG, WELL-SUPPORTED INITIATIVE FOR IT FROM OTHER PARTICIPANTS, BUT WE WOULD NOT MAKE OR ENCOURAGE SUCH AN INITIATIVE OURSELVES, AND WE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD RESERVE OUR POSITION ON A PCF (OR ANY OTHER 93(IV) MEASURES) UNTIL COMPLETION OF THE EXPERTS WORK PROGRAM.

3. WILL GORDON STREEB BE AVAILABLE TO HEAD USDEL? VANCE

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